

# *Study of 1 Corinthians 4*

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## *1 Corinthians 4:1-21*

In this chapter of Corinthians Paul admonishes us to walk as he has chosen to willingly and lovingly walk, and that is, in total loving surrendered obedience to our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah made flesh, our Messiah, for Messiah Himself willingly chose to walk in the Righteous Path that our heavenly Father set out for Him. Furthermore, Messiah, admonished **ALL OF US**, to believe, follow, obey and walk that very same path of Torah obedience that He walked, and the only way that anyone can do that, is by willingly and lovingly choosing to surrender our hearts, minds, souls and strength to our heavenly Father, and then make a commitment, that from this day on, we will believe, follow and obey the Words of His Torah of Life as Messiah did and taught us to do. That is why Paul tells us in *verse 1* that we are *to so account him, and all the apostles, as ministers of Messiah, and stewards of the mysteries of Elohim*, he is therefore telling us, the we, you and I, **ARE TO BE ACCOUNTED AS MINISTERS** and **STEWARDS** of Messiah, who also happens to be the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father, as he, Paul and all the Apostles **ARE**.

Based on what Paul has just told us here, the question that we therefore have to answer for ourselves **IS**, what does it mean to be a **MINISTER of Messiah and a STEWARD of the mysteries of Elohim?**

(Ministers: Strong's number G5257 ὑπηρέτης, Hypērētēs} \hoop-ay-ret'-ace; it is from G5259 and a derivative of ἐρέσσω, Eréssō, which means to row; an under-oarsman, generally a subordinate, an assistant, a sexton, a constable, a minister, an officer and a servant)

To be someone's *minister*, means that you are a subordinate, an assistant, a servant, and that means that a minister/servant, **MUST** go about, doing the business of the one that he or she is a minister of, **you must attend to his business, you must look after what IS important to HIM**, you must take **care and tend** to his business and not your own, you must **nurse** and or **care** for all the people that are involved in His business, all of His clientele, and in this case, it means, all people that have surrendered their hearts, minds, souls and strength to Him.

Therefore when Paul says that we are **ALL TO BE MINISTERS of and to Messiah, IT MEANS** that we are to go about doing Messiah's business, caring for, attending to, looking after, and waiting on His every Word, His every Command, which Scripture clearly states, He received from our heavenly Father, and graciously gave to us. In other words, we are to listen, understand, believe, follow, and obey every Word that proceeds forth out of the Mouth of Messiah, **AND, BACK IT UP BY** actually performing, doing and following the Father's Path of Righteousness, His Torah of Life, as Messiah Himself did, and taught us to do.

Scripture makes it very clear that Messiah **IS** the Living Word of the Father made flesh, and as such, He has fully and irrevocably chosen to willingly and lovingly surrender His **WILL over to the WILL of our heavenly Father, and we, as His ministers, ARE TO DO EXACTLY THE SAME THING**. We are to willingly choose to fully surrender our wills to our heavenly Father in total and complete loving surrendered obedience, to all the Words of His Torah of Life.

Paul also says, that we are to be **STEWARDS** of the mysteries of Elohim.

Strong's number G3623 **οἰκονόμος**, Oikonómos, pronounced, *oy-kon-om'-os*; it is from G3624 and the base of G3551; and it means, a house-distributor, a manager, and overseer, an employee in that capacity; by extension, a fiscal agent, could be a treasurer; figuratively, it means, a preacher of His Gospel, the Words of the Father's Torah, for the Gospel, and Torah, **ARE** actually synonymous terms, and this word can also mean, chamberlain, governor or steward.

To be a steward means to be *a custodian, a curator, a keeper, a supervisor and or a guardian* of what you have been asked to watch over, and that of course is the Words of the Father's Torah of Life. Please let that sink in, WE, you and I, have actually been commanded by Messiah, and our heavenly Father to guard and protect with our own lives, the precious Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, the very same Words that became flesh and dwelled among us,. We are to guard and protect all the oracles of Elohim, all of the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father, all of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions. We are to take this admonishment from Paul very, very seriously, for according to Paul, our eternal resting place depends on it.

Keeping the responsibilities of these two tasks, in mind, that of being a minister and a steward, let us continue with what Paul is telling us, and see what he tells us as to how we are to act, since we accepted the positions of **MINISTERS** and **STEWARDS** of Messiah.

First of all, *verse 2* tells us, *Moreover* **IT IS REQUIRED** in Stewards, *that a man be found faithful.*

Strong's number G4103, **πιστός**, pistós, it is from G3982; and it means, trustworthy, trustful, believing, be a believer, that is faithful, sure, and true to his master.

Again we have to ask ourselves, **IF** Paul is telling us, that **TO BE ministers and stewards** of Messiah and our heavenly Father, one **IS REQUIRED to BE FAITHFUL**, as Paul says in: *verse 2* *Moreover* **IT IS REQUIRED** in stewards, *that a man be found FAITHFUL*; it therefore begs the question, **WHAT** are **MINISTERS** and **STEWARDS** of our Messiah **REQUIRED TO BE FAITHFUL TO?**

First of all, to be faithful means that we are to be **trustworthy, reliable, committed, devoted and loyal** to the person and or cause that we are following and or obeying; we are to be faithful to the One that we are ministers of, and that person according to Paul **IS** our Messiah, and Messiah Himself said, **IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS**, and He also said in *John 7:16* that His Commandments, His Doctrine **IS NOT HIS OWN BUT THAT THEY ARE** the Commandments and or Doctrine of our heavenly Father; therefore that means that **ALL** the people that have committed to become His Ministers and Stewards, the positions that you and I have just agreed to fulfill, **ARE** to be faithful in **believing, guarding, following, obeying** and **DOING** the Word of Elohim, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, we are to be faithful **to keep, guard and DO** the instructions that are delineated in the Torah of our heavenly Father.

Next, we see that Paul says that it really doesn't matter to him what people think of him, and that furthermore, he does **NOT rely on his OWN judgement or any man's judgements for that matter, BECAUSE**, Paul understands, that in and of himself **he knows nothing**, because according to Paul, the wisdom of man, which is what he Paul, had learned, followed and obeyed, until his road to Damascus experience, is absolutely worthless, and Paul counts all that he had learned from his Rabbinical teachers, **AS DUNG**; in other words, **ALL** the worldly, man made religious knowledge that he had accumulated over the years, until his road to Damascus experience **IS ABSOLUTELY**

**WORTHLESS TO PAUL**, and therefore he actually chose to count **ALL of it**, all that he had learned from his past teachers, the Pharisees, **AS DUNG**, and that from now on, he **WOULD ONLY RELY** on what the Word of Yahweh commanded him **TO DO**, and as you know, or should know, the Word of Yahweh, **IS the** inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of our most High Elohim, His Torah of Life.

*Verse 3 But with me **IT IS** a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, for I do **NOT** even judge my own self. 4 For **I know nothing BY MYSELF**; yet, am I not hereby justified:*

What Paul is saying here, **IS** that because his knowledge **IS FINITE, HE CANNOT RELY ON IT**, he cannot rely on his own **earthly** knowledge to even judge himself, or anyone else for that matter, because he knows, he could easily be wrong, therefore He has determined **AS WE SHOULD ALL DETERMINE**, that **HE MUST RELY ON** Yahweh's Holy Spirit to Judge him, by how he choose to keep, follow and obey the Words of the Father's Living Torah, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life; and Paul affirms that, by saying at the end of *verse 4 but He that judges me is Yahweh/Messiah*.

These are very important words for us to consider and meditate on, because, so many times we judge ourselves and other people based on our own understanding of what is right and wrong, **BUT** as you can see, Paul emphatically states that we are **NOT TO TRUST** our own understanding and that we must **LET** the Perfect Word of Yahweh, through His Holy Spirit **judge us and guide us in all things**.

Look at what Paul admonishes us to do in *verse 5* when he says **Therefore judge nothing before the time, until Yahweh comes, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and WILL MAKE MANIFEST the counsels of the hearts: and then, shall every man have praise of Elohim**.

According to Scripture, **WHEN** is Messiah/Yahweh coming again? Messiah/Yahweh **IS COMING AT THE END OF THE SIXTH MILLENNIUM**, which is the time that you and I, brothers and sisters, are now living in. **IT IS THEN** and **ONLY THEN** that Yahweh will bring to light, His infinite knowledge, and we will be able to see clearly what **IT IS** that He wants us to see.

*1 Corinthians 13:12 **FOR NOW WE SEE THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY; BUT THEN face to face: NOW I KNOW IN PART; BUT THEN, I shall know even as also I am known***.

*Verse 6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sake; that you might learn in us **NOT TO THINK OF MEN** above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another*.

First of all, I have to point out that it is very obvious to me that the Christian translators of the Scriptures are extremely biased, and it really comes to the forefront in this verse, here in 1 Corinthians 4. *Verse 6* begins with *And these things brethren*: What **THINGS** is Paul speaking of here in *verse 6*? **HE IS** speaking of the **MYSTERIES** of Elohim, **HE IS** speaking of what **IS REQUIRED** to be found faithful to Messiah and His Doctrine, the Torah of our heavenly Father, **HE IS** speaking of the fact that we **ARE NOT TO RELY** on our own understanding, **BUT** that we are to surrender our Wills to the Father's Holy Spirit, who in turn, according to Scripture (*Ezekiel*

36:26-27) **WILL CAUSE** every surrendered contrite obedient heart that will allow Him *to keep, follow, obey and DO* His Torah of Life

In his comments in *verse 6*, Paul is emphatic in warning us **NOT TO TRUST** in any man's wisdom or judgement, including Paul's or our own, **BUT**, we are to **WAIT on Yahweh**, wait until He makes it clear to all of us, wait until the **LIGHT** of the world **IS** manifested in our lives, and that Light, my friends, **IS** our returning Messiah, when He returns as our conquering King at His second coming, and until then, we are to walk as Messiah walked, in total loving surrendered obedience to all of our heavenly Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Father's Torah of Life.

Then Paul continues on, and says in *verse 6* of the King James bible, *that you might learn in us NOT TO THINK OF MEN above that which is written*. Now I don't know **IF** you see the subtle and very sly and sneaky misleading that these Christian translators are doing here, **BUT** I certainly have, and I will point it out to you. The translators have added the words **OF MEN**, and that my friends is a very underhanded way of attempting to change the focus that the reader **SHOULD HAVE ON THE WORDS, ABOVE THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN**, which of course **IS** a **DIRECT REFERENCE to the WRITTEN WORD of our heavenly Father, HIS TORAH OF LIFE**, for when Paul was speaking these words to the Corinthians, **THERE WERE NO OTHER SCRIPTURES OTHER THAN the TORAH OF MOSHEH** for the so called New Testament, the Apostolic Scriptures, had **NOT** yet been written, and therefore, it is very obvious to me, as it should be to you, that these translators are deceitfully trying to redirect the readers' focus on **MEN**, and hopefully take the readers' focus away from the true meaning of this verse, **WHICH IS: And these THINGS** (the things mentioned above), *brethren, I Paul have in a figure TRANSFERRED to myself and to Apollos FOR YOUR SAKE; that YOU MIGHT LEARN in us NOT TO THINK ABOVE THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN, THAT NO ONE OF YOU BE PUFFED UP FOR ONE AGAINST ANOTHER.*

What Paul **KNEW** through the Holy Spirit **IS that IF** anyone willingly and lovingly chooses to **follow, obey and DO the Torah of Mosheh as we are commanded to do, THAT** all the **THINGS** that he mentioned above, all of these attributes **WOULD BE TRANSFERRED** to those who willingly surrendered their will to our heavenly Father in total loving surrendered obedience, as they were transferred to Paul and Apollos because of their obedience.

Our responsibility therefore is that we are to be doubly diligent in our study of the Scriptures, so that we are **NOT** deceived by biased translators and those that would change the Words of our heavenly Father, to suit their own purposes, their own man made religious doctrines.

*Verse 7 For who makes you to differ from another?*

*What have you that you did NOT receive as a gift of Elohim?*

*NOW IF you did indeed receive it, from Elohim?*

*WHY THEN do you glory or boast, as IF you had NOT received it, but somehow earned it?*

Paul is telling these Corinthians and us, that every great and perfect gift comes down from our Father of Lights, and that whatever we have as abilities, looks, fame or fortune, **IT IS ALL A GIFT from our Elohim**, and **HOW** we use those gifts, **WILL** determine our final resting place, whether it will be in the kingdom of Elohim or outside of it.

Paul goes on to say to these Corinthians:

Now you are full, filled with the Spirit of Elohim, now you are rich, filled with the knowledge of the most High Elohim, you have reigned as kings without us, you have become as Messiah:

And **ALL** of this has happened by the hand of Elohim, through His Holy Spirit  
*I would to Elohim you **did** reign, that we also might reign with you*  
*I think that Elohim has set forth us, the Apostles, **LAST**, as it were appointed to death*

What Paul is telling us here in these verses **IS**, that **TO BE** a leader in Yahweh's kingdom one must be willing to become **A SERVANT TO ALL** people, even unto death, in the exact same manner that Yeshua was a servant to our heavenly Father and to us, even unto the horrible death that He suffered on the cross.

*For we, that is the Apostles, are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.*

I don't know **IF** you've ever wished in your heart, that you could be an Apostle, or a teacher of the Word of Elohim as Paul was, **BUT, IF YOU DID**, please realise, **THAT IT COMES AT A GREAT PRICE, FOR ONE MUST** surrender absolutely everything to Yahweh in order to become His Apostle, and One **MUST DO** whatever **IS** asked of them, even unto death, in the same manner that Messiah did.

Paul continues on to delineate how and what the role of the Apostle of Messiah **IS**, and how it is perceived in and by the world, and as you read it, you might ask yourself, **IF THIS IS INDEED THE ROLE AND THE REWARD OF MESSIAH'S APOSTLE HERE ON EARTH**, why would I, or anyone else for that matter, want to be an Apostle of Messiah?

Let me show you what I mean. *We are fools for Messiah's sake* (totally submitted, and fully surrendered to Yahweh, and therefore, we look foolish to the people of the world), *But YOU are wise in Messiah*, **WISDOM** in Scripture **IS** defined as the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of Yahweh, the Father's Torah *Deuteronomy 4:5-8 Mosheh said: Behold, I have taught you Statutes and Judgments (Torah), even as Yahweh my Elohim commanded me, that you SHOULD DO SO in the land where you go to possess it. Keep therefore and DO them; FOR THIS IS YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING in the sight of the nations, who shall hear ALL THESE STATUTES, (the Father's Torah) and say, Surely this great nation IS A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE. For what nation is there so great, who has Elohim nigh unto them, as Yahweh our Elohim is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that has Statutes and Judgments, so righteous AS ALL THIS TORAH (Law), which I set before you this day?* As can quite plainly be seen, and understood, Paul **IS** telling these Corinthians to keep, follow and obey the Torah of Yahweh Elohiym, thereby **DISPLAYING THE WISDOM OF YAHWEH**.

*Paul goes on to say:*

*We are weak*

Messiah said in *Matthew 11:29 I am meek and lowly in heart*, therefore His disciples are displaying the same character as Messiah by being meek and lowly, **NOT** puffed up.

*But you are strong*

As soon as any of us accept Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father, as our

Master and Saviour, we become strong, because, the Scriptures tell us that **WE CAN DO ALL THINGS** through Messiah who strengthens us.

*You are honourable*

We become honourable when we willingly choose **TO OBEY** the Father's Commandments, for our heavenly Father has admonished His people **TO BE HOLY AS HE IS HOLY**, and the only way **TO BE HOLY AS HE IS HOLY, IS** to choose to willingly and lovingly follow and obey the Father's inerrant everlasting Commandments, His Torah of Life.

*But we are despised.*

Messiah was despised by many, therefore those of us that have willingly and lovingly chosen to follow in His Torah obedient footsteps, and now, believe, follow, obey and teach the very same words, the very same Doctrine that Messiah taught, the Doctrine of His and our heavenly Father, His Torah of Life, **WILL ALSO be despised by the people of the world.**

Please understand the very serious implications of this statement! This statement tells us that **EVERYONE** who hates us **BECAUSE we NOW** live and teach, that we are to be obedient to, and willingly **FOLLOW and OBEY** the Father's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, **WILL HATE US**, and that means that a majority of Christians believers in their Jesus, and Jews who follow and obey their oral torah, **WILL HATE US** for keeping, following, obeying and doing the Father's Torah.

Therefore, Paul tells us, that to become an Apostle, one must **BECOME A FOOL AS FAR AS THE WORLD IS CONCERNED, BECAUSE** one **MUST** be **MEEK** and **LOWLY**, one **MUST** be ready to be despised at every turn, one **MUST** be ready to be ridiculed by the multitude for what we believe in, and that my friends **IS HOW** the world has seen and will continue to see what the Apostle's role is in the grand scheme of things.

Next we see the type of circumstances and lifestyle which the Apostles will be subjected to.

*Even unto this present hour we*

*Both I Paul, and Apollos, hunger*

*We thirst*

*We are naked*

*We are buffeted*

*We have no certain dwelling place*

*We labour, working with our own hands*

*Being reviled, we bless (pray for those who despitefully use us)*

*Being persecuted, we suffer it (follow Messiah's example)*

*Being defamed, we entreat, (we forgive)*

*We are made as the filth of the world, and are the off-scouring of all things unto this day.*

We have to understand that generally speaking, the majority of the peoples of this world of ours, have absolutely **NO REGARD** for the Word of the Torah of our heavenly Father, **NOR** for the people that live by, preach and teach His inerrant and everlasting Word, His Torah of life; therefore, they will have nothing but disdain for us who have chosen to follow and obey the Father's Torah of Life, **BUT** we are Commanded to follow and obey the Father's way anyways.

Next Paul explains why he has spoken such harsh words to these Corinthians, and as you can see, **IT IS** because of the love that our heavenly Father has for His people **IS FIRMLY EMBEDDED IN PAUL'S HEART**, and he **IS** absolutely determined to follow through and teach the Gospel of Messiah, the Father's eternal Truth, His Torah (for the **TRUTH**, the Torah (*Psalms 119:142*) and the Gospel (*Ephesians 1:13*) **ARE** synonymous terms, they are **Yahweh's ETERNAL TRUTH**) that He gave to all of His people, out of love for them and us, who would read these words in the future.

*Verse 14 I write not these things to **SHAME YOU**, but as my beloved sons **I WARN YOU**.*

Paul goes on to warn these Corinthians and us, that although we may have many teachers that will come and teach us the ways of Yahweh, **THERE ARE BUT A FEW THAT ARE YOUR FATHERS**, therefore Paul admonishes these Corinthians, and us, to follow his example, as he followed Messiah's example.

*Verse 15 For though you have ten thousand instructors in Messiah, yet have you **NOT** many fathers: for in Messiah Yeshua I have begotten you (I am a father to you) through the Gospel. 16 Wherefore I beseech you, **be you followers of me**. 17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and **faithful** in Yahweh, who shall **bring you into remembrance of my ways WHICH BE IN Messiah**, the Words of the Living Torah made flesh, as I teach everywhere in every church.*

The Scriptures tell us that we must learn to respect, honour and obey our fathers, and therefore, that is why Paul uses the example of being their father, so that they will know that they must honour and obey the words that Paul, their spiritual father is teaching them. Understood in the term father, **IS** that a true father would never ever **LIE** to His Son, but that he always has his Son's best interest at heart, in the same manner that our heavenly Father had His Son's best interest at heart when He sent Him to earth to be crucified for our Sins, our transgressions of the Words of the Torah of our heavenly Father.

In these last verses, Paul admonishes people **NOT to be puffed up, NOT to be prideful**. What does Paul mean when he tells us **NOT** to be puffed up? To be puffed up means to be inflated with one's **SELF IMPORTANCE**, to be so filled with **OUR OWN SELF WORTH OR EGO**, to such a degree that there **IS NO ROOM FOR HUMILITY**, because our heavenly Father is looking for people that are ready and willing to humble themselves before Him, so that He may teach people His ways, in order that He will be able to manifest His power through those individuals, who have willingly chosen to surrender their hearts, minds, souls, their strength, and their wills to the Father's Will, in loving surrendered obedience. One cannot obey the Commandments of any leader without first humbling themselves in surrendered obedience before their leader who gives them Commandments.

*Verse 18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would **NOT** come to you. 19 **BUT** I will come to you shortly, **IF** Yahweh will, and will know, **NOT** the speech of them which are puffed up, **BUT, THE POWER**. Here Paul says, don't think that you will get away with being puffed up, because you think that **I WILL NOT** come and chastise you for it, **FOR** I will **surely come** and **I WILL KNOW** each individual by the power of Yahweh that is manifested through them, because of their loving surrendered obedience to the Words of His Torah of Life, and **NOT** by the words they speak or teach, **BUT BY WHAT THEY DO**, for belief (faith) without works **IS DEAD**.*

Finally Paul tells these Corinthians that he will indeed recognize who the true leaders are by the power that Yahweh **WILL** manifest through them, and **NOT** just by the words that they speak. Then he asks them, would you rather I come to you in love or with a rod of correction. In other words heed my words **NOT TO BE PUFFED UP**, and learn to surrender yourselves to Yahweh in total loving surrendered obedience to all of His Words of Life, His Torah, and I will **NOT NEED TO COME AND DISCIPLINE YOU, BUT I WILL COME TO CONFIRM YOU.**

*Verse 20 For the kingdom of Elohim **IS NOT IN WORD, BUT IN POWER.** 21 What will you? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?*

My friends, Paul has made it quite clear, we have **NO POWER** in and of ourselves, **BUT IF WE CHOOSE** to willingly and lovingly surrender our wills to our heavenly Father in total loving surrendered obedience to all the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life made flesh, then Yahweh **WILL INDEED** manifest **HIS POWER** in and through us, and make us His **VESSELS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** onto the world, and use us to complete His redemption onto salvation plan for the whole world. Amein

*Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.*

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein!*